Claims 1-10 (cancelled).

11. (new): A method of antimicrobial treatment of a surface which comprises contacting said surface with an antimicrobially effective amount of a compound of formula

$$(1) \qquad \begin{array}{c} N-S \\ \\ R_1 \\ \end{array}$$

wherein

R₁ is C₁-C₁₆alkyl, C₂-C₁₆alkenyl or C₅-C₈cycloalkyl, each unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, -CN, -NO₂, -C=O, -C=S, -NR₂, -OR₃, -SR₄, -SO₂R₅, -COOR₆ or by a 1,3,4-oxathiazol-2-one radical:

R₂ and R₃ are each independently of the other hydrogen; C₁-C₅alkyl; C₆-C₁₀aryl, or acyl;

 R_4 is hydrogen; C_1 - C_5 alkyl; or C_6 - C_{10} aryl;

 R_5 is C_1 - C_5 alkyl; or C_6 - C_{10} aryl; and

R₆ is hydrogen; C₁-C₅alkyl; or C₆-C₁₀aryl.

12. (new): A method according to claim 11, wherein in the compound of formula (1)

R₁ is C₁-C₁₆alkyl unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, -CN, -NO₂, -C=O, -C=S, -NR₂, -OR₃, -SR₄, -SO₂R₅, -COOR₆ or by a 1,3,4-oxathiazol-2-one radical;

and

R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅ and R₆ are as defined in claim 11.

13. (new): A method according to claim 11, wherein R₁ is C₁-C₁₆alkyl.

14. (new): A method according to claim 11, which comprises contacting skin, mucosa or hair with a compound of formula (1).

15. (new): A method according to claim 11, which comprises contacting textile fibre materials with a compound of formula (1).

16. (new): A method according to claim 11 in which a compound of formula (1) is used in a washing and/or cleaning formulation.

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17. (new): A method of imparting antimicrobial properties to plastics, paper, nonwovens, wood or leather, which comprises contacting said materials with an antimicrobially effective amount of a compound of formula (1) according to claim 11.

18. (new): A personal care preparation, comprising

from 0.01 to 15 % by weight, based on the total weight of the composition, of a compound of formula

wherein

R₁ is C₁-C₁₆alkyl, C₂-C₁₆alkenyl or C₅-C₈cycloalkyl, each unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, -CN, -NO₂, -C=O, -C=S, -NR₂, -OR₃, -SR₄, -SO₂R₅, -COOR₆ or by a 1,3,4-oxathiazol-2-one radical;

R₂ and R₃ are each independently of the other hydrogen; C₁-C₅alkyl; C₆-C₁₀aryl, or acyl;

R₄ is hydrogen; C₁-C₅alkyl; or C₆-C₁₀aryl;

 R_5 is C_1 - C_5 alkyl; or C_6 - C_{10} aryl; and

 R_6 is hydrogen; C_1 - C_5 alkyl; or C_6 - C_{10} aryl,

and a cosmetically tolerable adjuvant.

19. (new): An oral composition, comprising

from 0.01 to 15 % by weight, based on the total weight of the composition, of a compound of formula

$$(1) \qquad \begin{array}{c} N-S \\ \\ R_1 \\ \end{array}$$

wherein

R₁ is C₁-C₁₆alkyl, C₂-C₁₆alkenyl or C₅-C₈cycloalkyl, each unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, -CN, -NO₂, -C=O, -C=S, -NR₂, -OR₃, -SR₄, -SO₂R₅, -COOR₆ or by a 1,3,4-oxathiazol-2-one radical;

R₂ and R₃ are each independently of the other hydrogen; C₁-C₅alkyl; C₆-C₁₀aryl, or acyl;

 R_4 is hydrogen; C_1 - C_5 alkyl; or C_6 - C_{10} aryl;

 R_5 is C_1 - C_5 alkyl; or C_6 - C_{10} aryl; and

 R_6 is hydrogen; C_1 - C_5 alkyl; or C_6 - C_{10} aryl,

and an orally tolerable adjuvant.